

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2, 2020

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Details about the November 2020 Election in Williams County

Williston, N.D., (September 2, 2020) – Williams County will be conducting the November 3, 2020 General Election as a mail ballot election with two physical polling locations. The authority for a County Commission to conduct mail ballot elections is authorized by North Dakota Century Code, Chapter 16.1-11.1-01. A mail ballot election requires at least one physical polling location and for the County Auditor to mail absentee ballot applications to all active voters that have not previously applied for an absentee ballot that year. Absentee ballots are only sent to citizens that have completed an application that has been verified by the Williams County Auditor's Office.

Although a mail ballot election is typically referred to as "Vote by Mail," there are several ways to submit a ballot for the November 2020 General Election:

- Return an absentee ballot to the Williams County Auditor's Office via U.S. Postal Service, postmarked by November 2, 2020 (P.O. Box 2047, Williston, ND 58802-2047)
- Return an absentee ballot via secure ballot box by 5 pm CT on November 2, 2020. Ballot boxes will be installed by mid-September at the following locations:
 - Grenora City Hall (204 Main St)
 - Ray City Hall (1010 Main St)
 - Tioga City Hall (12 1st St NE)
 - Trenton Indian Service Area (TISA) (331 4th Ave E)
 - Williams County Administration Building (206 E Broadway, Williston)
- Return an absentee ballot to the Williams County Auditor's Office in person by 5 pm CT on November 2, 2020 (206 E Broadway, Williston)
- Vote in person on Election Day, November 3, 2020, between 8 am and 7 pm CT at the Tioga Community Center (510 NE 6th St) or at the Williston Area Recreation Center (ARC) (822 18th St E).

Whether a citizen votes by absentee ballot or in-person, valid identification including the voter's name, current residential address, and date of birth is required. Options include a North Dakota driver's license, a nondriver's identification card, ID issued by a tribal government, or a long-term care identification certificate. More information about voter identification can be found at vote.nd.gov. Voters can also verify their voting information and address at vote.nd.gov. If a voter is unable to update their current address before election day, then the voter MUST bring with them a document such as a lease, utility bill, or bank statement showing their current residential address.

Important dates for the public to be aware of:

- **Receiving and returning an Absentee Ballot Application**
 - Mid-September
 - Absentee ballot applications will be mailed to all active voters in Williams County that have not previously applied for a November ballot. If an individual does not receive an application in the mail and is unsure if they have already applied for one, they should contact the Auditor's Office at 701-577-4500.
 - October 16
 - Suggested last day to return an application via mail to the Auditor's Office; after this date, deposit the application in a Ballot Box or hand deliver to the Auditor's Office
 - October 26
 - Last day to hand-deliver or fax (701-577-4510) an application to the Auditor's Office
- **Receiving and returning an Absentee Ballot**
 - September 24
 - Auditor's Office begins to mail ballots
 - October 23
 - Contact the Auditor's Office if an application was submitted, but a ballot has not yet been received
 - October 26
 - Last day ballots will be mailed to voters
 - November 2
 - Ballots returned via **mail** must be postmarked by this date. **This does NOT mean put it in the mail that day.** If a ballot is mailed **ON** November 2nd, there is no guarantee that it will be postmarked that same day. If mailing on the 2nd, it is advised for the voter to go to a post office and asked for a hand stamp of the postmark for that day. It is recommended to return a ballot via USPS at least two weeks before the election; if submitting your ballot within two weeks of the election, it is recommended to use a ballot box.
 - Ballots returned via **secure ballot box** must be deposited by 5 pm CT
 - Ballots returned **in person** to the Auditor's Office must be received by 5 pm CT
 - November 3
 - Polling locations (Williston ARC and Tioga Community Center) will be open from 8 am to 7 pm CT

This information, and more, can be found at <https://www.williamsnd.com/Election>.

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